

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

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FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3605

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 0743

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR CH KN

SUBJECT: KIM IL SUNG BANQUET SPEECH

REF: PEKING 737

1. AFTER MEETING WITH MAO TSE-TUNG AND TENG HSIAO-PING IMMEDIATELY
AFTER HIS ARRIVAL IN PEKING, KIM IL SUNG ATTENDED FOUR HOUR
BANQUET AT GREAT HALL OF THE PEOPLE PRESIDED OVER BY VICE PREMIER
TENG HSIAO-PING. IN HIS SPEECH, KIM TOOK A THREATENING LINE WHICH
CLEARLY SUGGESTS THAT HE FEELS U. S. REVERSALS IN INDOCHINA
POSE A NEW OPPORTUNITY TO INCREASE PRESSURE FOR AMERICAN
WITHDRAWAL FROM KOREA AND EFFORTS TO TOPPLE THE ROK GOVERNMENT.
REFERRING AT SEVERAL POINTS IN HIS SPEECH TO THE RAPID PACE OF
INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS, KIM APPEARS TO ASSUME THAT A NEW
MILITARY CONFLICT ON THE KOREAN PENNINSULA

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IS ALMOST INEVITABLE. AT ONE POINT HE STATES, "WE SHALL ALWAYS

KEEP A SHARP VIGILANCE AGAINST THE IMPERIALIST THREAT OF WAR AND
GET OURSELVES FIRMLY PREPARED TO MEET THE FORTHCOMING GREAT
REVOLUTIONARY EVENT VICTORIOUSLY, WHETHER THERE WILL BE WAR OR
REVOLUTION."

2. DESCRIBING THE STRUGGLE IN KOREA AS "A MAJOR LINK IN THE WHOLE CHAIN OF THE ANTI-IMPERIALIST NATIONAL LIBERATION STRUGGLE", KIM VOWS THAT "IF REVOLUTION TAKES PLACE IN SOUTH KOREA, WE, AS ONE AND THE SAME NATION, WILL NOT JUST LOOK AT IT WITH FOLDED ARMS BUT WILL STRONGLY SUPPORT THE SOUTH KOREAN PEOPLE." THE ONLY THING THEY HAVE TO LOSE, HE SAYS, IS THE MILITARY DEMARCTION LINE. THUS, WHAT KIM APPEARS TO BE ENVISAGING, AND INDEED CONFIDENTLY PREDICTING, IS THE OUTBREAK OF A REVOLUTIONARY SITUATION IN SOUTH KOREA WHICH WOULD JUSTIFY NORTH KOREAN INTERVENTION ACROSS THE DMZ. WAR WOULD BE CAUSED ONLY IF THE U.S. CHOSE TO INTERVENE. CHINA WOULD BE EXPECTED TO STAND BEHIND NORTH KOREA IN THESE DEVELOPMENTS BASED ON THE "NOBLE FRIENDSHIP SEALED IN BLOOD" BETWEEN CHINA AND NORTH KOREA THAT KIM SAYS "WILL ENDURE ANY ORDEAL AND WILL FLOWER FOREVER."

3. KIM ALSO APPEARS TO BE ATTEMPTING TO SET UP CONDITIONS SIMILAR TO THOSE USED BY THE NORTH VIETNAMESE AGAINST PRESIDENT THIEU ARGUING THAT WHETHER THERE WILL BE WAR OR PEACE DEPENDS ON U.S. WITHDRAWAL OF ALL TROOPS FROM KOREA AND THE INSTALLATION OF A "DEMOCRATIC FIGURE WITH NATIONAL CONSCIENCE." THEY WOULD NOT DEAL WITH ANYONE ELSE.

4. TENG HSIAO-PING'S SPEECH IN RESPONSE, WHILE REPLETE WITH REVOLUTIONARY BOILERPLATE, STRIKES A MUCH MORE CAUTIOUS NOTE. IN ONE PARAGRAPH HE REFERS THREE TIMES TO PRC SUPPORT FOR PEACEFUL REUNIFICATION OF KOREA. THIS EMPHASIS ON PEACEFUL REUNIFICATION IN THE CASE OF KOREA STANDS IN RATHER STRIKING CONTRAST TO THE REMAINDER OF TENG'S SPEECH WHICH PRAISES THE VIRTUES OF MILITANT ARMED STRUGGLE IN THE CASES OF VIETNAM, CAMBODIA, THE MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH AFRICA.

5. ALTHOUGH NUMBER THREE RANKING WANT HUNG-WEN APPEARED FOR THE BANQUET, THE PESENCE OF TENG HSIAO-PING, FIRST AS MEETER AND GREETER AT THE RAILWAY STATION, THEN WITH MAO, AND FINALLY AS THE BANQUET SPEAKER UNDERLINES THE CONFIDENTIAL

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MESSAGE THAT HE IS NOW THE MAN TO DEAL WITH. WE ALSO NOTE THAT FOR SUCH A MAJOR LEADER AS KIM, TENG MADE NO REFERENCE TO ACTING ON BEHALF OF EITHER MAO TSE-TUNG OR CHOU EN-LAI.

6. COMMENT: AS USLO SPECULATED IN REFTEL, IT APPEARS THAT KIM IL SUNG FEELS THE TIME IS RIPE TO STEP UP PRESSURE IN KOREA IN THE WAKE OF EVENTS IN INDOCHINA.
THE CHINESE WILL BE UNDER CONSIDERABLE PRESSURE TO TAKE A MORE

POSITIVE STAND, BUT THUS FAR THEY ARE TREADING VERY CAUTIOUSLY.
HOLDRIDGE

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